Sexual assaults on foreign tourists

*16. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the increasing incidents of sexual assaults on foreign tourists;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that a heavy decrease in number of women foreign tourists has been observed following such incidents; and

(d) if so, the steps Government has taken to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) There have been reports in the media highlighting cases of harassment and misbehaviour with tourists in India. 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Government including cases relating to crime against tourists. The Government of India has been issuing guidelines from time to time to make concerted efforts to improve the administration of Criminal Justice System and to take effective measures to control crime against vulnerable sections including women and children.

(c) and (d) The foreign tourist arrival for the month of January 2008 has shown an increase of 9.9% over the same period of 2007. Figure for women tourists are not compiled, separately, on monthly basis.

Indirasagar Project

*17. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Andhra Pradesh Government's proposal to the Central Government to give early clearance to Indirasagar (Polavaram) Project which is aimed to provide irrigation facilities in Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur and Prakasham districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the reasons for delay in sanctioning it, especially when it will protect hundreds of villages from inundation due to floods; and

(c) by when it is likely to be given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) The appraisal process in Central Water Commission of the Polavaram (Indirasagar) project has been completed. The State Government has to obtain the Forest and Wild Life clearances from the Ministry of Environment & forests so that the project proposal is put up before the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources on Irrigation, Flood Control & Multipurpose Projects for considering techno-economic clearance to the project.

Manipulation of IPOs

18. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: